

Education and Childhood Studies

Time allowed: 1.5 hours

Answer any TWO questions

1. The NASUWT teaching union report that, in their survey of teachers, “37% of respondents have experienced physical abuse or violence from pupils in the last 12 months.” Critically discuss why this may seem like an increasing problem and discuss three ways schools could begin to address the issue.
2. In recent international education test comparisons (PISA tests) schools in Wales performed “significantly below the average across OECD countries and significantly below those seen across the rest of the UK” (Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2024). Analyse why this might be the case, and how the issue may be addressed, if it actually does need addressing.
3. “Thousands of fines issued to parents in Wales for not sending their children to school” (Wales Online, Jan 2024). How should schools, and the government, address absenteeism from schools?
4. How should the development of generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) affect the way schools teach?
5. It has been argued that the school year is based on an outdated agricultural calendar. What are the arguments for and against changing the school calendar and adjusting the time and length of school holidays.
6. Critically discuss whether household income impacts children’s development in the early years.
7. “Girls outperform boys across all education phases but [...] the gender gap is unique in narrowing during the primary school phase – before widening again during secondary school” (Education Policy Institute, 2024). Critically discuss the possible reasons for this and how schools should respond.
8. Do school uniforms encourage inclusion or inhibit diversity? Evaluate the arguments for and against the use of school uniforms.